

# St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship

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## November 2021

All services are online at this time. Please visit [www.uufstcloud.org](http://www.uufstcloud.org) for the Zoom information to join

**ALL SUNDAY SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE  
ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

### **10:00 a.m. Sunday, November 7: Celebrating Our Transitions: The Second of Three Sundays of Celebration for our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (*Daylight Savings Time Ends Today. Fall Back!*)**

We will highlight our enjoyable endeavors to find a suitable meeting space as well as our earnest efforts to add professional leadership to our existing lay leadership. We will showcase the transitions from the single life to the married life for many of our members. There will be a special story for the children about the origins of a significant part of our “liturgy.”

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, November 14: A Spirituality of Mediocrity – Rev. Shelley Dugan**

Who wants to be *mediocre*? Or perhaps worse, who wants to be seen as mediocre? Ordinary, run-of-the-mill, nothing to write home about. Or even lower than that - second-rate, low-grade, a hack. Some people, ironically, have been told to “work on their perfectionism” - meaning “get worse at being perfect.” Letting go of the need for perfectionism is an important aspect of spiritual maturity. Yet, striving for mediocrity is a difficult goal to wrap our heads around. Is there something to being mediocre besides freedom from the tyranny of perfectionism? Together, in perhaps a mediocre sermon, let us explore the spiritual benefits of not being amazing!

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, November 21: Defending Democracy – Marlene Haider, League of Women Voters**

Our UU Principles include “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” This presentation will address Voting Rights and the Redistricting process that’s required following the 2020 Census. We’ll learn about the Freedom to Vote Act and hear about concerns with redistricting including gerrymandering, communities of interest, packing and cracking, etc. What is involved with local redistricting and how can you participate?

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, November 28: UU Holidays: Chalica? Luminescence?**

We’ll introduce recent efforts to create UU winter holidays and there will be time for discussion. Do we need a UU holiday? What does the “Holiday Season” mean to you? How do you and your family celebrate? How would you like to celebrate Chalica this year?

#### **To contribute to SCUUF:**

- 1) send a check to SCUUF, PO Box 805, St. Cloud, MN 56302, or
- 2) Make a contribution by debit/credit card or PayPal by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Donate-SCUUF>

*Your November TOUCHSTONES Journal was sent as an attachment with this newsletter distribution*

## **November President's Corner**

*by Lisa Bershok*

November is somehow already here. The weather has started to turn, and it reminds us that winter will soon be upon us. A reminder to everyone that November 7<sup>th</sup> is the end of Daylight Savings time. Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour so you can join our services on time! This is especially important as November 7<sup>th</sup> will be the second in our three-part Anniversary Celebrations series. We encourage all current and past members to attend if possible. There is not a lot of new news to impart this month from the Board. Our financial stability is still sound, and we appreciate everyone's continued commitment to the financial support of the Fellowship. To the many volunteers that it takes to continue to run our operations and our online presence for Sunday services, you are greatly appreciated! Maybe you've heard this joke, "How many Unitarian Universalists does it take to run a virtual service? Everyone, we're all a part of an interdependent (world wide www.) web of existence". Ok, bad jokes aside, I am amazed at our ability to remain connected even after a year and a half of virtual engagement. Like you, I look forward to the time when we can all connect again in person for Sunday Services.

If you are in need of attending in-person at this time due to technology or other needs, please remember to connect with Tom Hergert. Tom and Jim are working diligently on technology to support these in-person needs, but they may not be available every Sunday to offer this option, so we don't recommend just showing up at the Fellowship building for a Sunday service.

We are currently at 80.71 cases per 10,000 in Stearns County. This is a slight decrease so hopefully this means a potential turn for the better. We are looking for the case count to come down to 30 cases per 10,000 before we can return fully to the building for in-person services. A reminder that booster shots have been approved for 65+ or individuals younger than 65 with certain pre-existing conditions or high-risk contact, and it appears the FDA has approved vaccination for our 5-11 year old age group. There are many locations you can receive a vaccination if you need one. CentraCare offers a walk-in COVID-19 Pfizer and Moderna vaccination clinic that is available from 8am-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays at CentraCare South Point location for the community ages 12+. That may change as I am writing this on the day that the 5-11-year old group was approved. Call CentraCare Connect at 320-200-3200 for the latest information on availability of boosters or to check whether you need an appointment.

You can also search for a vaccination location on the State of MN website: <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/locations>

## **SCUUF's Anniversary Celebration Sundays Continue!**

by Lois Head, [Who is known for having only two speeds: Fast and Faster!]

Since I ran the Comments Power Point slides too quickly on Zoom to allow members of our congregation to read everything that other members had written, we will again – slowly – present this sequence of significant statements at the start of our second Sunday of Celebration before we go on with the rest of our presentation that day.

Then, get your party hats ready!

The second of our three Sundays of Celebration for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary will occur on November 7, 2021. (The third will occur on December 5.) The ZOOM connections will be available starting at 10:00 a.m. (instead of the usual starting time of 10:30 a.m.) so that we can bring you historical information and photographs excavated from our Archives, stories of how we came to have and to be what and who we are, the impact that our liberal presence has had on our young people and our community, and our excitement about the growth we have experienced from our beginnings as a discussion group that decided to become a Unitarian congregation so that “our children would not have to unlearn too much when they grew older” to our current recognition as an influence for Seeking Truth, Building Community, and Promoting Justice.

We on the Committee felt that we had so much to celebrate that we needed all three Sundays to strut our stuff with extended programs! So, if you participated in the first program, we know that you will want to plan to participate in the second one on November 7 to relive the stages of our growth and all the fun we've had maturing into the organization that we are today. We have surprises to share that will make you glad that you are a part of this group as we acknowledge our lay and professional leaders and reflect on their organizational and spiritual contributions to our Fellowship.

Power Point presentations will again open and close our second Sunday of Celebration so plan to come early (starting at 10:00 a.m.) and stay late (for an additional one-half hour) to enjoy the slides. In other words, plan for another big morning, longer than usual, if you opt to “arrive” on ZOOM at 10:00 a.m. and also to stay for the closing sequence for the November 7 Celebration Sunday. (We promise to try harder to not tap the wrong buttons!)

On Sunday, November 7, we will focus on *Celebrating Our Transitions*. We will highlight our enjoyable endeavors to find a suitable meeting space as well as our earnest efforts to add professional leadership to our existing lay leadership. We will showcase the transitions from the single life to the married life for many of our members. There will be a special story for the children about the origins of a significant part of our “liturgy.”

So, gather with your family to participate in the November 7 celebration of our transitions.

### **The Caring Committee**

The Caring Committee has been formed for the times in each of our lives when we need help from another person. The members of the Caring Committee are available to help members and friends of the St. Cloud UU Fellowship in a variety of ways. Feel free to contact any member of the committee:

Linda Saupe (Chairperson), Marge Bates, Hanni Epp, Doug Polley, Chris Smith, Charlotte Stephens, and Ron Syme.

For anyone with emergency needs, a wide range of services is available from agencies and organizations in the community. These can be accessed by calling 211 (or 800-543-7709).

## **Share the Spirit**

*by Angela Stevens - Social Justice Chair*

As many of you know the Fellowship has participated in Catholic Charities "Share the Spirit" program for several years. Because of Covid we will once again be taking donations to contribute to Catholic Charities and let them do the gift buying for the families in the program. If you wish to participate you can send donations to me at:

Angela Stevens  
19465 County Rd 7  
South Haven, MN, 55382

Please make the checks out to Catholic Charities and write Share the Spirit in the memo section of your check. I will collect the checks and hand deliver them to Catholic charities as I have in the past. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and I will send out reminders closer to the end date for contributing. Thank you for your time.

## **Anti-Racism Team Report**

*from Judy Foster*

As we continue to work on applying the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle to our Fellowship work, the Board recently approved a recommendation from the Anti-Racism Team that we separate the internal work of reviewing our governing documents, practices, and policies from our outreach and action work. Anti-Racism would address the internal work and the Social Justice Committee would focus on the external work. Social Justice accepted this recommendation at its last meeting and will begin developing goals and strategies at its next meeting.

Anti-Racism has recruited a couple of SCUUF members to work with us on this project, Doug Polley and Charlotte Stephens. We met recently and decided to start with our SCUUF Constitution. The first thing we noticed was that the Purpose statement at the beginning of the Constitution is out-of-date in both language and content. It reads as follows:

"The purpose of this Fellowship is to further the causes of: individual freedom of belief; advancing truth; the democratic process in human relations; brotherhood and sisterhood; and a united world fellowship. We support the Unitarian Universalist Association Statement of Principles. We are a welcoming congregation that seeks to be a spiritual home for people of free faith regardless of race, color, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, age, national origin, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability."

The language of "brotherhood and sisterhood" is out-of-date. It includes our welcoming congregation statement, which is anti-discriminatory, but does not include gender identity, and the statement as a whole does not speak to social and climate justice, or what is known as DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). Each of us is going to work on a revised statement that is more in line with the recently approved 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and try to come up with an agreed-upon recommendation for changing this statement. We hope to provide opportunities for Fellowship feedback before making a final recommendation to the Board, which would come before the membership at our Annual Meeting next May. Please be on the look-out for these opportunities, and if you have any other ideas for improving the statement or if you want to work with us on this project, please let us know.

*Lisa Bershok, Judy Foster, Jean Keller*

## Adult Religious Education Conversations

by Ozzie Mayers, Chair

Would you like to continue the conversation about our UU Principles that began with the Sunday Service presented by Ellen Eastby on October 24<sup>th</sup>? Then join a discussion that includes our individual understanding of the Principles and to what extent we as a Fellowship are manifesting them.

The next Adult Religious Education will be held on Zoom on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. **Please send me a reply with your e-mail address so I can include you in the Zoom invitation.** I will send you a copy of Ellen's presentation once I hear back from you. You are welcome to participate in the discussion even if you did not hear the presentation on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

For easy reference, here is a site for the list of Principles: <sup>[P.1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup><https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles>  
You might also want to obtain a copy of the book upon which Ellen based her presentation, though this is not a requirement for our conversation: The Seven Principles in Word and Worship by Ellen Brandenburg; you can purchase it through the In Spirit Book Store (<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Basket.aspx>).

## 8<sup>th</sup> Principle/MUUSJA Report

by Judy Foster

The most recent meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Learning Community provided examples from numerous UU congregations nationwide on changes they have made to policies and practices in light of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. I have saved multiple documents and websites shared by these congregations that could be useful to the Anti-Racism Team as it pursues its work (see Anti-Racism Team Report).

I was struck that All Souls UU Church in Washington D.C. is working with Laura Parks at Unity Unitarian in St. Paul as a consultant. Laura Parks is consulting with the MUUSJA (MN UU Social Justice Alliance) Board members taking the IDI (Intercultural Diversity Inventory). She could be a resource for our Anti-Racism Team.

Another point that came up, though discussion was deferred to another meeting, was Robert's Rules of Order. Numerous attendees expressed their disapproval of this method of making decisions, which is something that will surely come up as the Anti-Racism team reviews our system of governance and decision-making.

Meanwhile, MUUSJA is meeting with Laura Parks in November for a Board assessment on the IDI and is gearing up for end-of-the year fundraising. Keep an eye out for Give to the Max on Nov. 18. Early giving begins Nov. 1  
<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Muusja>

Support MUUSJA's work:

- **Defending Democracy - voter engagement and election protection**
- **Racial justice & equity - end biased surveillance & state-sanctioned violence**
- **Gender justice & dignity for women & LGBTQIA+ peoples - end conversion therapy & support transgender kids**
- **Indigenous rights & climate justice - Stop Line 3 & honor treaties**
- **Elder justice - support autonomy & dignity of elders who are working, in retirement, and at end of life**

You can explore details, sign up for news, and become a one-time or sustaining donor on our website at [www.muusja.org/donate](http://www.muusja.org/donate) or via #GiveAtHomeMN. Questions? Please contact Karen Wills, Director@MUUSJA.org, 612-927-2072.

SAVE THE DATE: Online virtual Annual Meeting - December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

## **CRE News**

*by Jessica Beierman*

A few Fellowship CRE members were able to meet up and hike around St. John's Arboretum on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a perfect day for a hike with the beautiful Fall leaves! We will plan additional CRE events in the coming months, such as an afternoon at the sledding hill, which was a success last Winter. Stay tuned.

If you are not on the CRE e-mail list yet and would like to be included on future CRE related e-mail notifications, please let Melissa know via e-mail at [woods.melissa11@gmail.com](mailto:woods.melissa11@gmail.com).

## **November Walking Meditation**

*by Helen Manion*

On Saturday, November 13, the meditation group will meet at the St. Cloud Public Library at 10:30 in the Array Meeting Room. This room is on the main floor and down the hall to your right, as you enter the library. The room is large enough for our group to practice social distancing. Please wear a mask (but okay to pull your mask down if you are speaking). Since November is Thanksgiving month, the readings and meditation will be about community and gratitude.

If you would like further information, please contact Helen at [hmanion@yahoo.com](mailto:hmanion@yahoo.com) or 928-499-4784.

## **Calendar Reminders**

**AVOID ZOOM CONFLICTS:** We encourage you to use the Zoom licenses for video conferencing, but please follow the standard reservation process to ensure the Zoom "meeting room" (license) is available at the time you would like to make use of it and to allow others to see planned meetings on the calendar.

Please check the online calendar on our website for scheduled Zoom meetings at [www.ufstcloud.org/calendar](http://www.ufstcloud.org/calendar). A meeting event/room reservation button to submit a form for reservation requests can be found below the calendar on the website. This same button can be used to schedule any Zoom meetings. Please reach out to Jessica Beierman at [calendar@ufstcloud.org](mailto:calendar@ufstcloud.org) if you have any questions.

*Tom Hergert and Jim Hixson have agreed to be the contacts for the Zoom License and will provide a tutorial for anyone needing to learn how to host a Zoom Meeting. Their contact information can be found in the new UUF Directory.*